

**ABSTRACT**

Spraying a surface of a reticle with carbon dioxide snow cleans the surface and removes particles. Further spraying the surface of the reticle with carbon dioxide snow at a temperature below a carbon dioxide sublimation temperature forms a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface. The solid carbon dioxide layer prevents particles from contacting the surface of the reticle. The solid carbon dioxide layer may be removed, and the reticle may be used in a extreme ultraviolet lithography tool.

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